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TESTIMONY of DARIEN YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU
FOR THE APPROPRIATION SUBCOMMITTEE
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Hello Senator Bye, Representative Walker, Senator Slossberg, Representative Fleischmann, and members of the Secondary Education sub-committee. My name is Janice Marzano and I am the Director of Darien Youth Service Bureau. I am here to testify in support of youth service bureau programs.

In 1978, Public Act 78-183 of the Connecticut General Statutes established Youth Service Bureaus. The Statute states that YSB's shall be the coordinating unit of community-based services to provide a comprehensive delivery of prevention and intervention, treatment and follow-up services. (See C.G.S.10-19m).

There's no sugar coating this. At a minimum, the cuts to youth service bureaus outlined in the governor's proposed budget would significantly delay the academic, social and emotional success of the 26,000 children and teens; 448,000 youth and parents; served by 102 bureaus across the state over the past two years. I shudder to think what the full impact may be.

Given the budget deficit faced by the state, I understand that sacrifices must be made. But a 40 percent reduction in the state funds for youth service bureaus would tear at the social fabric of the children and teens served by 102 bureau's across the state; a fabric that is already frayed beyond repair at the edges.

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